

## The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1903.

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## ROOSEVELT AT SHARPSBURG.

The President's appearance at Sharpsburg on Thursday was to accept on behalf of the national government a monument that has been erected on that field to the soldiers of New Jersey who were participants in that battle, which the President described as "the bloodiest one day's fight of the war."

In reviewing the events and results of that mighty conflict the President spoke of the Confederates as "gallant foes who were the gray," and of Americans "right to feel pride in their courage and their fealty to an ideal, even if they warred against the stars in their courses."

His address was for the most part a laudation of the Federal troops who met Lee at Sharpsburg—Antietam they called it—and who achieved there what he considered a famous victory. But, really, he contributed nothing to the history of the battle. For our part, we cannot see that it was any such triumph as he described it. En route to that field, Jackson captured Harper's Ferry with 12,000 prisoners, 13,000 stand of arms, 70 cannon and other stores, and Mr. Lincoln was so little satisfied with the Federal "success" at Sharpsburg and the safe return of Lee's army to Virginia, that shortly afterwards he removed McClellan from the command of the army of the Potomac and put Burnside in his place.

Two things especially handicapped Lee at Sharpsburg. First, a copy of his confidential orders to his lieutenants detailing his plan of operations in Maryland fell into the hands of McClellan. That was dreadfully unfortunate, for it enabled McClellan to anticipate to some extent the movements of Lee. Then there was a vast amount of straggling on the part of Lee's soldiers, with the consequence that he was compelled to present a reduced front to the enemy.

That most of our men were harried or badly shot, that they were enticed by lack of food and long marches over stony roads, must be said in excuse for them, but Confederate official reports made at the time loudly lamented the mischief that straggling had done.

Nor was the expectation of a great Confederate uprising in Maryland realized. The appearance of our men—half starved, dusty, powder-stained, ill-shod, and worse, untrained—was not encouraging, to be sure. However, Swinton, the historian of the Army of the Potomac, calls Sharpsburg "a drawn battle," and says that "McClellan had suffered as much as he had inflicted." Porter's corps, which "attempted to follow Lee across the Potomac was driven back with considerable loss."

Lee pulled his army together with remarkable success upon his return to Frederickburg, and on December 13th, at Fredericksburg, he smashed a great part of the Federal army, causing Burnside to return to the north side of the Rappahannock on the night of the 15th. Not long afterwards Burnside was succeeded by Hooker, from which Lee later on won his marvelous victory at Chancellorsville.

But to return to the President's address at Sharpsburg: In eulogizing the men who fought on the northern side, or if they did not fight on that side, sympathized with the cause of the North, he said:

Every friend of liberty, every believer in self-government, every idealist, who wished to see his ideal take practical shape, wherever he might be in the world, knew that the success of all in which he most believed was bound up with the success of the Union armies in this great struggle.

In commenting upon this paragraph in the President's address the Baltimore Sun well says that it is inconceivable that the President or any other student of history should entertain such views. And in contrast with Roosevelt's position it puts forth the following expression of the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, of Boston, made in an elaborate discussion of the subject at Charleston, S. C., in December last:

With such confidence I assert in its fundamental there was no right or wrong about it; it was an inevitable, irrepressible conflict—the question of sovereignty was to be decided, and either side could offer good ground, historical and legal, for any attitude taken in regard to it. That shield did actually have a silver as well as a golden side.

As I read the record and understand the real facts in the case of direct and insidious issue between sovereignty and self-government, I am inclined to believe that the Union was not only free to decide, but had to decide for itself, and whichever way he decided he was right. The Constitution gave him two masters. Both he could not serve, and the average man decided which to serve.

In the light of sentiment, tradition and environment.

Bright and scholarly as the President is, it is not possible for his views to carry the weight that Mr. Adams' do. He maintains that the South had no warrant for asserting the principle of State sovereignty as opposed to Federal sovereignty. Note what Mr. Adams says and then consider which of these two northerners is better qualified to pass judgment on the question.

## DISTINGUISHED PISTOL-TOTER.

The winds that started in the far away West Indies swept across the south seas and got in some ugly work on the Atlantic coast, and made a large and interesting company of free born American citizens sea sick, to say nothing of the money damage done to property here and there, had a more far-reaching effect than any storm that ever preceded it from the West Indies, or from any other point of the compass, so far as we are at present advised.

The reports tell us that the high winds lifted the coat tails of the President of this great and glorious republic and thereby exposed to view a pistol, and at the same time revealed the fact that the aforesaid President of this great and glorious republic is a violator of the law he is sworn to respect, to maintain and to enforce.

In short, the untimely and disastrous storm told us that the President is a pistol toter, and notes the same in violation of law and against the peace and dignity of the great American republic and of several States which go to make up the same. Who would have thought it?

It is an awful thing to contemplate, but what are we going to do about it? That is the question. If the winds had caught those presidential coat tails unawares down in the old Commonwealth of Virginia—that is to say, in any rural portion thereof—a cross-roads Virginia justice would have rejoiced in the honor of arraigning such a great and good man and making him contribute the sum of \$30, more or less, to the public school fund, and that would have ended the matter so far as this ancient Commonwealth had any interest in the case, but the winds did not perform in any old Virginia backwoods, and we do not know how New York magistrates view such contempt of law when exercised by a great and good President.

The President ought to be fined, there can be no question about that, but his offense being committed in another jurisdiction, we cannot say that the law will be respected and the peace and dignity of the nation maintained. We can only say what would have happened had the storm hit the presidential coat tails in old Virginia.

IN A NUTSHELL.

As we are made to understand it, Mr. Henry Newland, of Vicksburg, Miss., is an Englishman, who a few years ago came to this country and settled in the South. Mr. Newland makes a trip to England every year or two. He has just returned from one of these periodical trips, and as he passed through Washington the other day he was interviewed by a reporter for the Washington Post.

"Whenever I go back to my old home in England I am besieged with questions relating to the subject of lynchings in the United States," said Mr. Newland. "In fact, I get questioned so much that at times I am greatly annoyed."

"Before settling in the South I had all the old world prejudice against lynchings. To-day, I think it would be far better to let the law take its course, and this is also the opinion of all the intelligent and responsible men in the South. What I started out to say was that it is perfectly useless to try to explain to a foreigner the true inwardness of lynch law. I never understood it before I went South to live, and no man who is alive to the section, its history, its customs, its unwritten laws, will ever be any wiser as to the conduct of the Southern people. I do not uphold them in wrong-doing, and yet I tell my English kinsmen and friends that if they were surrounded by the same conditions they would undoubtedly act just as the Southerners do. Human nature, especially Anglo-Saxon nature, is the same in all lands."

We might write columns and we could not explain the situation more forcefully than that.

TOBACCO-COTTON.

There is some reason to believe that The Times-Dispatch was not far wrong when it said some weeks ago that the farmers who grow tobacco that is tobacco a week before they were hurt, when they raised such a hue and cry about the low price of the weed as it appeared to them when the first dry leaves and primmings from the hills on the sandbars of Eastern Carolina were placed on the market and received such a cool welcome.

Some of the tobacco that is tobacco is now ready for the market, and such of it has made its appearance in even the smaller markets has been more cordially received by the buyers than were the "oak leaves" and "wrapping paper" that got to market before the buyers were ready to deal in tobacco. We still believe that tobacco that is tobacco has a value, and will bring a price that will prove profitable to Virginia and North Carolina raisers who have the good fortune to cultivate lands that are suited to the growth of good tobacco. Sand hills cannot produce tobacco, and now that cotton is again to be proclaimed king is a good time for sand bank owners to find it out.

THE PROSPECT

The Washington Post, in a leading editorial on the subject of the next presidential contest, considers it probable that the Republicans will be successful, but it says that it is undeniable that the assurance of such an outcome is less positive than it was three months ago. We quote:

The events of the summer have tended toward unification of the opposition, and have tended toward increased disturbance in the Republican party. It is at sea over the great question of currency reform.

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With a Comment on Two.

There is no county on the Virginia Peninsula nowadays so slow that it has not yet taken to the sea, and is now running through it—Newport News Press.

"Proposed" is good.

If the people around Richmond would turn out and collect all the fortunes left them lately the banks would be filled to overflowing—Newport News Times-Herald.

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much more radically divided now than when Congress adjourned. The same remarks apply to tariff revision. Indeed, there is so much dissection in the party or these questions, as well as upon other serious matters, that a united Democracy, with a conservative platform and a strong candidate, would not, by any means, be foredoomed to defeat.

Right you are, Mr. Post.

Engineer Parsons, of the New York Rapid Transit Commission, and John B. McDonald, contractor, are at loggerheads over the methods to be pursued in the construction of the Broadway branch of the subway, and efforts made to reconcile their differences have failed utterly. A new complication is added, therefore, to the long agitated question of how the tunnel under Broadway shall be built.

The merchants and property owners are objecting strenuously to the making of an open ditch in the street. The press and the public in general support the merchants in their objection to the tearing up of Broadway, but Mr. McDonald says there is no other way in which the tunnel can be built than by opening the street, and he declared at the meeting Wednesday afternoon that unless this method shall be used the tunnel cannot be completed within ten years.

The contractor promised that the work should be done with as little inconvenience to the public as possible. But Engineer Parsons is determined that the street shall not be opened.

"The progress of the Southern States in no line has been more marked," says the Montgomery Advertiser, "than in the manufacture of raw cotton into finished goods." The Advertiser backs its statement with the figures, and shows that last year, for the first time the number of bales and pounds used by Southern mills exceeded those of the North and East. The number used by Northern mills footed up 1,090,635 bales and by the Southern 2,000,720. When our mills get to making the finer qualities, and those which are most profitable the difference in our favor in amount used up will be still greater. The growth of the South in nine years has been from 718,515 bales in 1894 to 2,000,720 in 1903.

Save General Carmen, of the battlefield commission, no Marylander of prominence was on hand at the Sharpsburg monument dedication to extend official courtesies to the Jerseymen. The State administration was not represented, and Maryland's senators and representatives were otherwise engaged. We doubt if the Jerseymen invited the Marylanders, or in anyway signified their desire to have the latter present. It seems to be another case of "somebody blundered."

Lord Rothschild being interviewed with respect to Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's retirement from the Cabinet and Premier Balfour's policy, said:

I take it to mean no taxes on food or raw material in the near future.

The noble lord no doubt knows, at any rate, we are willing to take his word for it.

The Hon. Tom Johnson wants a few more orators in the pending Ohio campaign. The conclusion of the Virginia primaries will leave several voice gentlemen with open dates.

It is announced that work will commence on another new Russian warship early in November, and yet peace negotiations for the whole world are still on, at Russian instigation.

At the hour of going to press Mayor Low has not read Mr. Jerome's letter. He will probably not read it in time for the next edition.

The renowned Chesterfield weather prophet successfully dodged the shank end of the coast storm, and will be ready with a prediction in a few days.

The weather men have been right busy for the past week. Business in their line makes other lines active, also.

Dr. Broughton's acceptance of the call to Boston means that something will be doing in that old town this winter.

Of course, the Florida orange crop was injured in the coast storm. That was mainly what the storm came for.

If all the reports we get from Macedonia are correct, there is good business there for the undertakers.

A rear view of the President seems to develop a gross violation of law. What are we going to do about it?

The cool wave got here all right, and a more enjoyable cool wave never came up the pike.

Rumors of the assassination of King Pete, like some other rumors, continue to lack confirmation.

Reports of killings in Bulgaria are still susceptible of finding room for many grains of allowance.

A Cabinet crisis in the old county isn't a circumstance to a live county primary in old Virginia.

The aquinoxial gales this year seemed to have been a little more noxious than equal.

Not a few Richmonders who were up in New England the other day got storm panicked.

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